

Appl. 09/558,284
Amdt. dated December 18, 2003
Response to May 20, 2003 Office Action.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing this application with their undersigned agent in the telephone interview on December 17, 2003.

To expedite prosecution, applicants have canceled claims 1,5-6, 8-9, 13-20, 24-41 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file for and obtain claims directed to the subject matter of this claim in a continuing or divisional application, claiming priority and benefit herefrom.

Applicants have amended claim 10 step (c) to delete the phrase "or on a media containing a non-metabolizable analogue of glucose" as suggested by the Examiner in the November 18, 2003 interview. Step (c) of added claim 42 also reflects this suggestion by the Examiner. Applicants have added claim 43 to replace canceled claim 41.

None of these amendments constitute new matter.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the forgoing amendments, withdraw the rejections and allow the pending claims to issue. To expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any matter that may be resolved over the telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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